



California Department of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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CALVET RELEASES BUS ADS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

In continuing its efforts to reach veterans regarding their benefits, especially those returning from active duty recently, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) today released a series of bus ads in ten different markets in the State. The focus of these bus ads is to convey information regarding the New GI Bill and suicide prevention. These bus ads will run through August 31, 2009 in approximately 2000 buses in 10 different markets.

"We are very proud of these well -designed and -received bus ads," said Roger Brautigan, Acting Secretary for the department. "Through these bus ads we are hoping to encourage veterans to seek a higher education in one of California's distinguished institutions of higher learning as well as providing them with a tool to assist them cope with life's stressors."

One of the bus ads provides information to veterans who served after September 11, 2001 regarding the New GI Bill which provides an increase in benefits from the previous GI Bill. Veterans are encouraged to call 800-952-5626 to request information. The other bus ad provides a toll-free telephone number, 800-273-TALK which provides mental health services to assist veterans who feel overwhelmed by stresses encountered upon their return home.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

The new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or known as the "New GI Bill", boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits. This GI Bill for the 21st Century has been enacted into law and will be available to veterans for education/training on **August 1, 2009**. The VA is accepting applications as of May 1, 2009. For more detailed and updated information on the new GI Bill, go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.